



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE, CANADIAN AUTHORITIES DEPORT DANGEROUS CRIMINALS, IMMIGRATION VIOLATORS TO NIGERIA

Criminal Records Included Assault, Attempted Murder, Drug Trafficking

BUFFALO, N.Y. – A planeload of illegal aliens deported from the United States and Canada – 63 Nigerian nationals returned to Nigeria on Tuesday evening – included several dozen dangerous criminals with a history of violent behavior, U.S. and Canadian officials announced today.

The removals were effected by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Canadian Immigration Enforcement.

Fifty-eight (58) of those deported were from the United States and five (5) were from Canada. Forty-six (46) have criminal records representing a wide range of criminal activities, including attempted murder; aggravated assault; possession and distribution of drugs; fraud; burglary; extortion; larceny; and embezzlement. All were in violation of either U.S. or Canadian immigration laws. For example, one of the aliens on the flight, Obot Anniedabasi, was identified as a removable alien as a result of his conviction for attempted murder in Houston in 1993.

“These removals send a clear message – ICE does not tolerate those who violate our country’s immigration laws and pose threats to our communities and public safety,” said Victor X. Cerda, Acting Director of ICE’s Office of Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). “We’re pleased to work with our counterparts in Canada to remove these dangerous criminals from our streets, as part of ICE’s mission to restore integrity to our immigration system.”

The Nigerian removals represent ICE’s latest success in aggressively enforcing immigration laws. In Fiscal Year 2004, ICE/DRO removed 384 individuals to Nigeria. Of those, 264 were criminal removals.

Overall last year, ICE/DRO set a new record in removing illegal aliens from the United States, with 157,281 aliens total removed. Under a new program targeting fugitive aliens (those who are eligible for removal based upon U.S. criminal convictions), ICE apprehended 11,063 individuals, a sizable increase over the previous year.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).